(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The super fast paddy variety "Heera" (CR 344-1-2) released by Orissa state in 1988 matures in 65-70 days and yields 2.5-3.0 t/ha of paddy. It is resistant to blast, tungro virus, gall midge and is suitable for upland drought prone areas of Orissa

Technology Mission for the Handicapped

@2815-A. SHRI MAULANA ASAD MADNI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are setting up technology mission for the handicapped which would help in acquiring modern equipment and provide them job-oriented education; and

(b) if so, by when and where the mission is likely to be set up and to what extent it would help the handicapped in using the technology?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) and (b) The Government have set up under Ministry of Welfare a Science and Technology Project in the mission mode on application of Technology for the Welfare of the Handicapped. The project aims at evolving low cost aids and appliances, hardware and software, appropriate to the Indian conditions in order to enhance mobility, amployability, easier living and integration of the handicapped person in society. The Project has started functioning from December, 1988 in New Delhi.

@Previously Unstarred Question 2238, transferred from the 16th March, 1989.

News Report on the Indian Bureaucracy

@@2815-B. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item in 'Sunday Observer' (February 5-12-1989, issue) by one K. Mohan on the Indian bureaucracy aimed at widening North-South division; and

(b) if so, whether Government will discourage such distorted news reporting by issuing a rejoinder giving the public the correct position?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The Government have seen the news item.

(b) The Government are looking into the matter.

12 Noon

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts (1987-88) of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited, New Delhi and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the Federation.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—7533/89 for (i) and (ii)]

@@Previously Unstarred Question 2483, transferred from the 16th March, 1989.